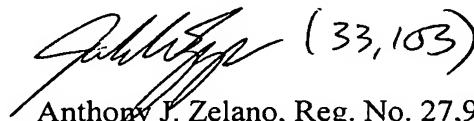


REMARKS

The purpose of this Preliminary Amendment is to eliminate multiple dependent claims in order to avoid the additional fee. Applicants reserve the right to reintroduce claims to canceled combined subject matter.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,

Handwritten signature of Anthony J. Zelano in black ink, with the handwritten number (33,103) to the right of the signature.

Anthony J. Zelano, Reg. No. 27,969  
Attorney for Applicants

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Date: December 10, 2004

AJZ/jph

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